

IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly replace the previous claims currently with claims 1-27 as follows. All claims have been amended in accordance with 37 CFR 1.121 with appropriate status identifiers. New claims 28-30 were added.

1. (Currently amended) A system operable to identify and access information about a user (109) of a distributed communication system in real time without the users intervention, wherein the system comprises at least one service device (108) operable to provide services to said user (109), at least one access device (105a) operable to provide access to said distributed communication system, **characterized in that wherein said system also comprises:**

at least one control means (101; 103) is connected to said at least one access device (105a) and to said at least one service device (108) via the Internet, a to wherein said at least one access device (105a) is connected to an identification device (113) operable to identifying an address of a specific user;

at least one storage device (102; 104) connected to said at least one control means (101; 103), and a to wherein said at least one control means (101; 103) is connected to a cache means (111) operable to store mappings of said addresses and identifications for of said users (109), wherein said service device (108) sends a request for information about a the user requesting a service from said service device (108) to said control means (101; 103), which such that the control means (101; 103) checks if said cache means contains an up to date identification; and whereby

if said check gives an affirmative answer, said control means (101; 103) fetches said information from said storage device (102; 104) and sends a reply comprising said information to said service device (108); and

if said check gives a negative answer, said control means (101; 103) sends a request for a real time identification of said address to said, access device (105a), which wherein said access device (105a) identifies said

address with the aid of said identification device (113) and sends said identification to said control means (101; 103), ~~which such that~~ said control means (101; 103) fetches said information from said storage device (102; 104) and sends a reply comprising said information to said service device (108) that identifies the user.

2. (Currently amended) A system operable to identify and access information about a user (109) of a distributed communication system according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said system is divided into a number of geographical regions based on the distance between different geographical regions.
3. (Currently amended) A system operable to identify and access information about a user (109) of a distributed communication system according to Claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said distance is measured by the delay between individual control means (101; 103) in said system.
4. (Currently amended) A system operable to identify and access information about a user (109) of a distributed communication system according to claim 2 any one of Claims 2–3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein each geographical region comprises a central control means (101), a central storage device (102), and in that each geographical region can comprise at least one regional control means (103), at least ~~one~~ one regional storage device (104), and at least one access device (105a).
5. (Currently amended) A system operable to identify and access information about a user (109) of a distributed communication system according to claim 2 Claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein each geographical region also can comprise a supplier means (106a) operable to distribute information, and at least one attach means (107a) operable to attach additional information to identifications, wherein said supplier means (106a) is connected to said at least one access device (105a) and to said at least one attach means (107a).

6. (Currently amended) A system operable to identify and access information about a user (109) of a distributed communication system according to claim 1 ~~any one of Claims 1–5, characterized in that wherein~~ each service device (108) is connected to a first interface unit (110), which in turn is connected to said-at least one control means (101; 103), in that each control means (101; 103) is connected to a second interface unit (112), which in turn is connected to said at least one access device (105a), and in that each control means (101; 103) also is connected to said at least one storage device (102; 104).
7. (Currently amended) A system operable to identify identity and access information about a user (109) of a distributed communication system according to claim 1 ~~any one of Claims 1–6, characterized in that wherein~~ said distributed communication system is the Internet.
8. (Currently amended) A system operable to identify identity and access information about a user (109) of a distributed communication system according to claim 1 ~~any one of Claims 1–7, characterized in that wherein~~ each service device (108) is an online service provider (108), each access device (105a) is an Internet access provider (105a), and each control means (101; 103) is a server (101; 103).
9. (Currently amended) A system operable to identify and access information about a user (109) of a distributed communication system according to claim 1 ~~any one of Claims 5–8, characterized in that wherein~~ each supplier means (106a) is a first supplier server (106a), and each attach means (107a) is a second supplier server (107a).
10. (Currently amended) A system operable to identify and access information about a user (109) of a distributed communication system according to claim 1 ~~any one of~~

Claims 7-9, characterized in that wherein said address of a user (109) is an IP-address.

11. (Currently amended) A method for identifying and accessing information about a user (109) of a distributed communication system in real time without the users intervention, is wherein said method is performed with the aid of a system comprising at least one service device (108) operable to provide services to said user (109), and at least one access device (105a) operable to provide access to said distributed communication system, said method comprises the steps of:

- requesting a service by that a user (109) requests a service (A), implicitly or explicitly, from a service device (108);
- sending a request by that said service device (108) sends a request for additional information about said user (109) to a control means (101; 103);
- checking, by said control means (101, 103), checks if a cache means (111) connected to said control means (101; 103) contains an up to date identification; whereby
  - if said check gives an affirmative answer, said control means (101; 103) fetches said information from a to said control means (101; 103) connected to a storage device (102; 104) and sends a reply comprising said information to said service device (108); or
  - if said check gives a negative answer, said control means (101, 103) sends a request for a real time identification of an address of said user (109) to said access device (105a);
- identifying said access device (105a) identifies said address, by said access device (105a) with the aid of a to said access device (105a) connected identification device (113), and wherein said access device sends said identification to said control means (101; 103) via the Internet; and
- fetching said control means (101; 103) fetches said information from a to said control means (101; 103) connected storage device (102; 104), and sends sending a reply comprising said information to said service device (108).

12. (Currently amended) A method for identifying and accessing information about a user (109) of a distributed communication system according to Claim 11, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ said system also comprises a to said each service device (108) connected, first interface unit (110), and a to said each control means (101; 103) connected, second interface unit (112), wherein the method also comprises the following steps:

- ~~forwarding~~ said request sent from said service device (108) is forwarded by said first interface unit (110), ~~which such that~~ the first interface unit (110) decides which control means (101; 103) to send said request to; and
- ~~forwarding~~ said request sent from said control means (101; 103) for a real time identification of an address of said user (109) is forwarded by said second interface unit (112) which selects ~~which the~~ access device (105a) to send said request to.

13. (Currently amended) A method for identification and accessing information about a user (109) of a distributed communication system according to ~~claim 11 any one of Claims 11-12, characterized in that wherein~~ said system is divided into a number of geographical regions based on the distance between different geographical regions.

14. (Currently amended) A method for identification and accessing information about a user (109) of a distributed communication system according to Claim 13, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ said distance is measured by the delay between individual control means (101;103) in said system.

15. (Currently amended) A method for identification and accessing information about a user (109) of a distributed communication system according to ~~claim 13 any one of Claims 13-14, characterized in that wherein~~ each geographical region comprises a central control means (101), a central storage device (102), and in that each

geographical region can comprise at least one regional control means (103), at least one regional storage device (104), at least one access device (105a), a supplier means (106a) operable to distribute information, and at least one attach means (107a) operable to attach additional information to identifications, wherein said supplier means (106a) is connected to said at least one access device (105a) and to said at least one attach means (107a).

16. (Currently amended) A method for identification and accessing information about a user (109) of a distributed communication system according to claim 11 ~~any one of Claims 11–15, characterized in that~~ wherein said method also comprises the following steps:

- updating by said control means (101; 103) ~~updates~~ said cache means (111) with a mapping between said address and an identification for each said request forwarded by said first interface unit (110);
- receiving by said control means (101; 103) ~~receives~~ a mapping between said address and said identification by querying said access device (105a), or directly from another control means (101; 103);
- storing by said control means (101; 103) ~~stores~~ said mapping together with a time stamp in an internal cache means (111); and
- iterating by said control means (101; 103) ~~iterates~~ through the currently stored mappings between said address and said identification in said ~~internal~~ cache means (111) if a predetermined time has elapsed since the stored time stamp for said entry; and whereby
  - if said address is invalid, which is verified by querying said access device 105a, said entry in said internal cache means (111) is removed; or
  - if said address is valid, which is verified by querying said access device 105a, said entry is updated with a new time stamp.

17. (Currently amended) A method for identification and accessing information about a user (109) of a distributed communication system according to claim 15 ~~any one of~~

~~Claims 15-16, characterized in that~~ wherein said method also comprises the following steps:

- downloading by said central control means (101), within a first geographical region, ~~downloads~~ mappings between access account information and an identifier from said access device (105a), which mapping data is stored in said central storage device (102) within said first geographical region;
- downloading by said supplier means (106a) within said first geographical region ~~downloads~~ mappings between access account information and an identifier from said access device (105a) within said first geographical region;
- distributing by said supplier means (106a) within said first geographical region ~~distributes~~ said information and identifier to said attach means (107a) in said first region, which attach means (107a) attach additional information to said identifier;
- sending, by said attach means (107a) in said first region, ~~sends~~ the new total information and identifier to said central control means (101) within said first region; and
- storing said new total information and identifier ~~are stored~~ in said central storage device (102) in said first region.

18. (Currently amended) A method for identification and accessing information about a user (109) of a distributed communication system according to Claim 17, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said method also comprises the steps of:

- distributing, by said central control means (101), ~~distributes~~ said mapping data to said regional control means (103); and
- storing said mapping data ~~are stored~~ in said regional storage device (104).

19. (Currently amended) A method for identification and accessing information about a user (109) of a distributed communication system according to claim 15 any one of ~~Claims 15-18, characterized in that~~ wherein said method also comprises the steps of:

- distributing, by said central control means (101) in said first region, distributes said mapping data to central control means (101) in another geographical region if there are service devices (108) requesting said information from said regional control means (103) or said central control means (101) in another region than said first region; and
- storing said mappings data are stored in said central storage device (102) in said another region.

20. (Currently amended) A method for identification and accessing information about a user (109) of a distributed communication system according to claim 15 any one of Claims 15–19, characterized in that wherein said method also comprises the steps step of:

- distributing, by said central control means (101) in said first region, distributes said mapping data to regional control means (103) in other geographical regions if there are service devices (108) in another region than said first region requesting said information from said regional control means (103).

21. (Currently amended) A method for identification and accessing information about a user (109) of a distributed communication system according to claim 15 any one of Claims 15–20, characterized in that wherein said method also comprises the step of:

- providing a possibility for that said user (109) can to interact with said control means (101; 103).

22. (Currently amended) A method for identification and accessing information about a user (109) of a distributed communication system according to Claim 12, characterized in that wherein said interaction is comprised of said user (109) is giving feedback to an action taken by said service device (108), wherein said feedback is stored in said storage device (102; 104).

23. (Currently amended) A method for identification and accessing information about a user (109) of a distributed communication system according to claim 11 any one of ~~Claims 11–22~~, **characterized in that** wherein said distributed communication system is the Internet.

24. (Currently amended) A method for identification and accessing information about a user (109) of a distributed communication system according to claim 11 any one of ~~Claims 11–23~~, **characterized in that** wherein each service device (108) is an online service provider (108), each access device (105a) is an Internet access provider (105a), and each control means (101; 103) is a server (101; 103).

25. (Currently amended) A method for identification and accessing information about a user (109) of a distributed communication system according to claim 15 any one of ~~Claims 15–24~~, **characterized in that** wherein each supplier means (106a) is a first supplier server (106a), and each attach means (107a) is a second supplier server (107a).

26. (Currently amended) A method for identification and accessing information about a user (109) of a distributed communication system according to claim 15 any one of ~~Claims 15–25~~, **characterized in that** wherein said address of a user (109) is an IP-address.

27. (Original) At least one computer program product (1021, ..., 102) directly loadable into the internal memory of at least one digital computer (100<sub>1</sub>, ..., 100<sub>n</sub>), comprising software code portions for performing the steps of claim 11 when said at least one product (102<sub>1</sub>, ..., 102<sub>n</sub>) is/are run on said at least one computer (102<sub>1</sub>, ..., 100<sub>n</sub>).

Please add the following new claims

28. (New) A method of identifying and obtaining information about a computer user that accesses a website or a service on the Internet in a manner that requires no interaction from the user in the form of stored data on the user's computer or log-in procedures, the method comprising the steps of:

requesting a website or a service from the Internet by the computer user;

sending a request for identifying information on the user to a third party entity via the Internet if the website initially cannot determine the user's identity;

retrieving the user's identifying information from a stored database accessible by the third party entity if the identifying information sought is included in the database;

retrieving the user's identifying information, by the third party entity, from an Internet access provider associated with the user's present session if the identifying information sought is not included in the database or is outdated; and

sending the identifying information from the third party entity to the website.

29. (New) A method according to claim 28, wherein the computer user, website, and third party entity may be located in different geographical regions.

30. (New) A method according to claim 28, wherein the third party entity checks a cache means for updated information on the user prior to the step of retrieving the user's identifying information from the stored database.

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